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EX-96 HTN  
11-28-0

500.39093X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): MATSUMOTO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/665,694

Filed: September 20, 2000

For: NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL PROBE, NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL MICROSCOPE AND OPTICAL RECORDING/REPRODUCING DEVICE WITH NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL PROBE

Group: 2877

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 15, 2002

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits and is accompanied by the following certification specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e).

On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 500.39093X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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